

1 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

2 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

3 In re: Application No. 99-1)
) PUBLIC HEARING
4) ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
SUMAS ENERGY 2 GENERATION) IMPACT STATEMENT
5 FACILITY)
) PAGES 1 - 87
6 Site Certification)
)

7 A public hearing in the above matter was held in
8 the presence of a court reporter on April 4, 2000 at 7:30
9 p.m. at the 134 Harrison Street, in Sumas, Washington,
before Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council members.

10 * * * * *

11
12 MR. DAVIDSON: My name is David Davidson. I
13 am the City of Sumas City administrator. I'm presenting
14 comments on behalf of the City tonight with respect to the
15 DEIS. Overall the City believes the document to be a good
16 disclosure of impacts, thorough, and fairly clear.

17 Last evening I attended the Bellingham
18 hearing and sat through the same three hours of testimony
19 that you did and heard lots of criticism of the project
20 but not so much criticism of the Draft EIS, which is the
21 actual topic of the hearing. The major purpose of the
22 Draft EIS, of course, is to inform you folks, the decision
23 makers on the Council.

24 I do have some specifics suggestions about
25 the Draft EIS from the City's point of view. With regard

Speaker 213

1 to the issue of water availability, the city has a bit
2 more information than apparently was used by the EFSEC
3 consultant to prepare the EIS. In the EIS itself on Page
4 3.2-25 the EIS seems to rely on a 1999 study by the U.S.
5 Geological Survey to conclude that, and here's a quote,
6 "There's a potential that an increase in extraction of
7 ground water from the City well fields could have an
8 incremental long-term effect of lowering the water level
9 in the Sumas aquifer," and it goes on from there.

10 I want to point out to the Council that the
11 geological survey conclusion that's quoted there was not
12 based upon USGS's actual field work, not their own work,
13 but in the report that is referenced in the EIS if you
14 look a little further and what that report what the USGS
15 is relying upon is the B.C. Ministry of Environment, a
16 report done by them in 1987 titled Ground Water Supply
17 Capability in the Abbotsford Upland. And I am going to go
18 ahead and supply a copy of that for the record. I will
19 give it to Irina later on.

20 When you take a look at that report it makes
21 a little bit different statement about supply of water and
22 says that we are not mining the aquifer, and we are not
23 going to cause long-term drawdown, and I quote from that
24 report, Page 14, lower water levels monitored in
25 observation wells since '82 likely reflect the localized

213-1

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 lowering of levels due to well interference and are not
2 indicative of a ground water mining situation in which
3 demand is exceeding natural recharge.

4 So I will provide you that for your
5 consultant to look at, but I think you need to look one
6 step further and look at the actual source material there
7 to see what the B.C. Ministry of Environment has to say
8 about this issue.

9 With respect to the air emissions, the EIS
10 provides a great summary of facts, but in a fairly
11 traditional method and format. It mentioned parts per
12 million of emission rates and tons per year of pollution,
13 and it shows in tables how the rates and the tons compare
14 to standards, but as you heard from testimony last night
15 in Bellingham there is public concern and alarm about
16 those numbers. People read those numbers and get alarmed -
17 and about possible health impacts associated with those
18 numbers.

19 The City suggests that the Draft EIS could
20 be improved in terms of the format of some of the material
21 in order to better allow people to understand your
22 conclusion in the EIS, or I should say your consultant's
23 conclusion that there is no significant impact. As an
24 example, you have here some of the information out of one
25 of the tables, 3.1-14, in the EIS, and what it shows is

213-2

1 SE2's contribution of pollutants in micrograms per cubic
2 meter over there in the right column as compared to
3 something called an annual Department of Ecology ASIL, a
4 specific impact Level. When you look at that, it's hard
5 to understand what it's telling you. For one thing it's
6 all in scientific notation.

7 And secondly, it references this thing
8 called ASIL, but you don't really know at this point what
9 is an ASIL, so there is elsewhere in the text a definition
10 of what an ASIL is and how an ASIL connects to human
11 health. It says elsewhere, 15 pages earlier in the
12 document, that an ASIL limits the risk of an additional
13 cancer case to one in a million as from various pollutants
14 so that's what an ASIL is.

15 You could put that right in the table. I
16 mean those numbers are set conservatively to project human
17 health, limit chance of new cancer case to one in a
18 million. The other thing you could do because of the
19 scientific notation it's hard to see what these are
20 telling you as you could divide the one number by the
21 other.

22 I have just added one more table based on
23 your same data. What's the safety factor here? How is
24 the plant to do as compared to the standard? Well, it's
25 122 times lower than the acetaldehyde. It's 16 times

213-2

1 lower than the arsenic standard, etc., so in a table like
2 that you see, first, how the standard relates to health,
3 and second how the plant relates to the standard. That's
4 an example of format.

5 You could add information to the Draft EIS
6 to put some of this information in context. The EIS
7 mentions that there is three tons per day, and in fact a
8 lot of fliers floating around in town talking about three
9 tons per day of pollution, but how much is this in
10 comparison to what's in our air shed already is an
11 important comparison to make sense out of this.

12 This is some information I'll turn into to
13 you. It's a memorandum for the 1996 calendar year
14 prepared by the Northwest Air Pollution Authority wherein
15 they examined in the three county area here what are the
16 sources of emissions and how much is being emitted to the
17 air shed right now, and you can see in it. So Northwest
18 Air Pollution thinks that there's 7,051 tons of PM10
19 particulate matter and it shows a breakdown, but the bulk
20 of that comes from fireplaces, accidental fires, vehicles,
21 on road vehicles, outdoor burning, and down there at the
22 bottom 18 percent of that is coming from industrial point
23 sources like this one.

24 The contribution of this plant with respect
25 to particulate is another 223 tons, which is let's see,

213-3

213-3

1 3.2 percent, so it's a three percent pie slice added onto
2 the chart. That kind of information in the Draft EIS puts
3 things more in context for the public.

4 Another example, same kind of thing, how you
5 put this in context, you can compare how much this plant
6 is going to be emitting as compared to as we heard last
7 night in the testimony the air doesn't care about the
8 Canadian border. The air shed extends across both sides,
9 so if you take a look at the lower Fraser Valley and
10 Northwest Air Pollution in the three-county area and look
11 at that whole air shed, this whole area you can look and
12 see what fraction of the pollution in the air would be
13 coming from this plant, and it ranges from a low of two
14 hundredths of a percent for carbon monoxide, so one five
15 thousandths up to a high of a little over one percent for
16 particulate.

213-4

17 I also think as the EIS is suppose to talk a
18 little bit about comparisons or alternatives another way
19 to put this in context is to look at typically what do
20 plants like this emit, and there's data that can be drawn
21 with the top seven lines here I think are straight out of
22 permit applications from other facilities permitted in
23 this area either by the B.C. Administrative Environment up
24 in Canada or by the Northwest Air Pollution Authority in
25 our three county area, and all those are permitted sites

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 within the last couple of years. And you can take a look
2 at the parts per million and what's permitted. I just
3 picked out two of the pollutants here, NOx and carbon
4 monoxide, ranging from a high of 25 at the Campbell River
5 up in Vancouver Island, Port Alberni the same things on
6 through a low of 3 ppm being proposed for this plant.
7 Same kind of thing with carbon monoxide and take a look at
8 tons per year per megawatt and see how that stacks up.

213-5

9 There was a common theme heard at
10 yesterday's testimony asking for more time. Please extend
11 the comment period was what you heard over and over. I
12 would remind EFSEC that lots of information in this EIS
13 has been in the public domain for a long time prior to
14 release of the EIS.

15 The Draft EIS is redundant with information
16 in the application that came out three months ago. In
17 fact, a lot of it is redundant with the very first
18 application that was filed 15 months ago, and last night,
19 for instance, when Connie Hoag spoke to you about the
20 noise and the cited specific noise levels presented in
21 Appendix B of the existing EIS, the very same tables that
22 she was referring to are Appendix C-1 in the first
23 application filed 15 months ago.

213-6

24 So there's a lot of redundancy, and that's
25 one of the reasons that you folks, EFSEC, in the past have

1 not asked for the Draft EIS to be published before you
2 started the hearing process. So I suggest that part of
3 what's going on is a tactic to oppose the project through
4 delaying the process as opposed to an actual desire for
5 time necessarily, and the City requests that you keep on
6 the original time line and let the adjudicative hearing
7 process begin, particularly given as you pointed out that
8 there are opportunities for public input put in the
9 future. That's all I had to say and I'll turn it in in
0 writing.

213-6

1 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you very much. I wanted
2 to mentioned some of the things that David mentioned, and
3 I want to remind folks that the complete Draft
4 Environmental Impact statement is on our web site, if you
5 have access to the worldwide web. The address is
6 www.cfsec.wa.gov. That's our acronym, the Energy Facility
7 Site Evaluation Council, and click on the tab that says
8 Sumas and look in, and there will be a Draft EIS there,
9 and there's a lot of other information too.

0 So the next speaker that comes up we're
1 going to speak into in the microphone, please. I
2 neglected to mention that we have a court reporter here
3 that is taking your testimony down, so we will have a
4 written record of that.

5 MR. VanDEIS: My name is Rich VanDeis. I'm

Speaker 214

1 a resident of Sumas. I after reading the EIS summary I
2 think it's as far as it has been it's been prepared quite
3 well. The only comment that I have on it and it doesn't
4 go along with what David Davidson had said that there is a
5 little bit more laymen's terms in there, so that everybody
6 can understand, so that it is not people -- once you
7 understand in layman's terms, it will be much easier.
8 Thank you.

214-1

9 MR. BUMFORD: Thank you. My main objection
10 to oppose Sumas Power Plant is the impact it will have on
11 our resources; namely, the air we breathe and the water we
12 drink. It would be hard to name two things more important
13 to our well being; yet, we are on the verge of accepting a
14 business that will severely impact the quality and
15 availability of those resources by allowing the power
16 plant to be built.

Speaker 215

215-1

17 The people in favor of the project all point
18 to one alluring benefit. That is money. Money for
19 Darrell Jones and his company, National Energy Systems,
20 money for construction workers, money for future employees
21 of the power plant, and money for our school system from
22 increased property taxes. Yes, most of us want money.
23 It's hard to turn it down, but its promise can convince us
24 to act in certain short-sighted ways as in this case and
25 allow us to overlook and deny the problems and burdens

215-2

1 that the power plant would bring.

2 I believe the quality of the air we breathe
3 is more important than just money. The availability of
4 water for farming, for future nonpolluting businesses and
5 for future households is more important than just money.
6 Of course, we need money to survive, but the power plant
7 brings it at too high a cost.

8 If you look at the growth coming at us from
9 all sides with Seattle and Vancouver edging our county in,
10 it seems a foregone conclusion that Sumas can someday
11 perhaps soon have nonpolluting businesses with family wage
12 jobs and more people looking to live here.

13 Let us now be more discerning as to the kind
14 of growth we will accept. We can refuse to allow
15 industries that will pollute and consume our resources and
16 can have faith that we will make our future brighter for
17 ourselves and our generations to come. Thank you.

18 MR. FIKSDAL: I forgot to mention could you
19 state your name and address for the court reporter.

20 MR. BUMFORD: My name is Bo Bumford.

21 MR. FIKSDAL: And address, please.

22 MR. BUMFORD: Sorry. 8523 Paradise Valley
23 Road, Sumas.

24 MS. HOEKSTRA: My name is Laurie Hockstra.
25 I live at 34691 First Avenue, in Huntingdon. I am a

215-2

215-3

Speaker 216

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 homeowner in Canada in Abbotsford. I'm not very good at
2 this sort of thing.

3 I would like to comment on the EIS; however,
4 since we just received it at 10:30 last night after my
5 husband attended the Bellingham meeting it would be very
6 hard for me to comment on it. SE2 refused to give us
7 notification. They say they gave proper notification to
8 people, but very few people I have talked to knew of any
9 of this going on.

10 We learned about it because of a local
11 resident. She put her name in the paper. She had the
12 news reporters come out to her home. The first we heard
13 about of it that was about nine days ago.

14 What we have a problem with in what I have
15 seen in the EIS is they talk about emission levels at the
16 Abbotsford Airport. If the Abbotsford Airport is there
17 concern, they're not getting the right place. Chilliwack
18 is where they should be looking. The worst day in the
19 year for emission levels or air pollution they should be
20 in Chilliwack. You add this plant, the emission levels to
21 that, and where are we suppose to go to breathe? Some
22 people are even being advised on the worst days of the
23 year to stay indoors. They are not suppose to even be
24 breathing the air. We spend a lot of money in Abbotsford
25 in Canada in the west here on air care on having to air

216-1

1 care our cars, so we don't spew out a ton of emissions and
2 now this plant is going to be built.

3 Whatever happens to the Sumas neighbors here
4 happens equally to us. We can't get any closer to the
5 border. I'm on First Avenue. We are also committed to
6 fighting having the lines built through our community. It
7 won't be very far from my home. It will be running right
8 through downtown Abbotsford. We're not even impressed.
9 We don't see any benefit for us. We have been in contact
10 with anybody and everybody we can, and we will continue to
11 fight it. We are pretty much refusing to allow it to come
12 into our community.

13 If SE2 wants to build this plant, they're
14 going to have to find an alternate route for their power
15 lines. We urge you to reconsider this plant. This
16 doesn't make any sense. I don't know how to put it in
17 words except that we're just so furious that this could
18 come into our back yard. We understand that it's coming
19 into the Sumas. You have the right to build this plant,
20 and we can't fight it.

21 However, we are treating the sewer from this
22 plant. We were not told when the sewer lines were put in
23 that we would be treating the sewer from this plant. We
24 were told we were treating the sewer from the town of
25 Sumas. That's fine. We have always felt that we were

216-2

1 good neighbors, and Sumas was good neighbors with us. We
2 didn't have a problem with it.

3 It you seems like every time we turn around
4 something is being done behind our backs, and this is our
5 home. This is our community, and we sure don't want to be
6 kicked out because the devaluation of our property or
7 because we can't breathe the air. Thank you.

8 MR. LOCH: Mr. Fiksdal, I have two documents
9 I'd like to have distributed to the Council.

Speaker 217

10 Good evening. My name is Robert Loch. I
11 live at 2786 Birch Bay Lynden Road, Custer, Washington
12 98240.

13 Council, I thank you for having two nights
14 of meetings here in Whatcom County. The input tonight and
15 what you received last night can only be held here not in
16 Olympia or in Bellevue. This is clear. I will be brief,
17 and I plan also to submit written comments. However, I
18 cannot let this opportunity to speak directly to this
19 Council slip by knowing that the investors who sponsor the
20 Sumas 2 project have vast resources to bring to bear on
21 you in the formal process that is now getting underway.

22 Now turning to my remarks on the Draft.
23 First, I urge you to toss out at once Jones & Stokes
24 pathetic draft report based on the comments you heard last
25 night, many of which had to be prepared under severe time

217-1

1 pressure. The draft is entirely shot through with errors
2 and unsupported conclusions and opinions.

3 For example, tonight the Jones & Stokes
4 spokesman said the emissions are not visible. Please
5 check with Southern California to learn whether such
6 emissions are visible and don't throw good money after bad
7 trying to salvage a redrafted document. Cut your losses,
8 start over, bring in a new organization. Tell your staff
9 in clear vocabulary that you want a report that is based
10 on the contemporary expertise not a reedited, warmed over,
11 off the shelf Draft EIS. Now is the time to get a new
12 competent EIS underway. You deserve it and so do we.

217-1

13 Now turning briefly to a matter alluded to
14 last night, Sumas Energy 2's communication to the local
15 population. I received a letter which I copied and have
16 asked to be handed out to you announcing a public open
17 house to be held in Sumas on January 4, 2000. The letter
18 was postmarked December 22nd, just a day or two before
19 Christmas and advised that, and I will quote, "existing
20 wood poles would be replaced by slightly taller wood poles
21 capable of holding additional lines."

217-2

22 We now know that slightly taller is 75 feet
23 not 40 feet. The letter that I received postmarked
24 December 22nd contains but eight paragraphs, and four of
25 them refer to the transmission poles. However, the letter

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 tries to slough off local concerns about transmission
2 poles in saying that the Whatcom County transmission lines
3 mentioned above are not a part of this SE2's project, and
4 further it says if and when anyone actually proposes to
5 construct transmission lines along the routes there will
6 be additional Whatcom County permit proceedings, and
7 finally that the meeting that was held on January 4 will
8 focus primarily on the facility itself, not on possible
9 transmission lines that other parties may develop.

217-2

10 Now this was calculated to slough off any
11 local concerns about transmission lines. Now, Council
12 Members, here are a few of my other comments on the draft.
13 Concerning the no action alternative, if you eventually
14 conclude not to dump this project altogether, you can at
15 least, condition your recommendations to Governor Locke to
16 take some of the sting out of this project, and I have
17 three conditions that I am proposing that you consider and
18 adopt.

19 First, require that all of the power output
20 by Sumas Energy 2 be exported to-Canada physically; that
21 is, that there would be no new electric transmission lines
22 constructed in Whatcom County. The power can be put into
23 the Western Interconnection of the North American power
24 grid which includes Alberta, British Columbia, California,
25 Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, half

217-3

1 of New Mexico, and all of Nevada.

2 Now the letter that I distributed that was
3 sent to us on December 22nd recites that the new facility,
4 that is Sumas Energy 2, will be a merchant power plant,
5 which means SE2 will sell the power produced on the open
6 market. What a better way to set out to do that than to
7 send it into the North American power grid by way of
8 Canada. British Columbia and Alberta are part of the
9 North American power grid. So condition number one should
10 be all power out of this plant should be physically
11 transmitted into Canada.

12 Now condition number two, require Sumas
13 Energy 2 to use General Electric's new H System, which is
14 a new power plant design, and I distributed a clipping to
15 you from a Wall Street Journal February 22nd the year
16 2000, where the Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of
17 Energy, Mr. Richardson, praised the cleanliness of the new
18 G.E. turbines saying that these turbines would cut by half
19 the nitrogen oxide emission level of turbines now in use.
20 The H System will also produce the fewest tons of carbon
21 dioxide per kilowatt electricity of any gas turbine
22 available today, Mr. Richardson said.

23 And this is going to be put into operation
24 in Scriba, New York in the year 2002, so it is available
25 now. It's not something in the distance future, and we do

217-3

217-4

1 want to use the best available control technology. I am
2 sure that Jones & Stokes will agree with that. So
3 condition number two would be to require the applicant to
4 adopt General Electric's H System or the equivalent.

5 Condition number three, I propose that you
6 require Sumas Energy 2 to eliminate fuel oil all together
7 from its design and instead operate only on natural gas.
8 Now, Sumas Energy 2 investors therein can either buy firm
9 gas that wouldn't be interruptible on a year-round basis,
10 and they will have to pay more for that fuel. But that is
11 an investor issue not a residential issue. Or if the
12 investors don't want to pay for firm gas, and they insist
13 on cheap interruptible gas, well, then they can shut the
14 plant down when gas isn't available in cold periods.

15 And by doing this, Council, you will reduce
16 the annual emissions greatly, since diesel fuel oil is
17 much more harmful than natural gas emissions. And
18 incidentally, it also gets rid of a potential disaster
19 down the road from a big oil spillage, two and a half
20 million gallons of diesel fuel or an explosion of vapors
21 that might come off of that huge tank. So condition
22 number three, no fuel oils on the site.

23 That is the list of three conditions that I
24 am proposing to you, Council. I request that you further
25 plan to hold all of your adjudicatory hearings in Whatcom

217-5

217-6

1 County; that is, if this project gets that far. I thank
2 you.

Speaker 218

3 MR. GIROD: Well, yeah, I heard some
4 interesting thoughts.

5 MR. FIKSDAL: Can you say your name and
6 address, please.

7 MR. GIROD: Oh, yes. My name is Daniel
8 Girod, and I live at 216 Front Street. And I guess my
9 question is I went to the back and they didn't even have
10 any copies of the blue book which I was curious about,
11 which this is the synopsis, and it would be interesting.
12 I am bad. I am not up to speed. I guess I have gotten a
13 couple of questions more than any specific statements, and
14 I don't know who would want to address it, whoever would
15 be appropriate.

16 I hadn't really given this much thought
17 other than I thought essentially a power plant sounded
18 like a good idea in a town that's already got one. And I
19 guess my main question was is the proposed new plant
20 essentially the same environmental impact in terms of
21 fumes and water and so forth as the existing? We've got
22 an existing power plant, so is the one that's proposed
23 essentially going to be a larger version, I mean in terms
24 of the pollution? Does anybody know?

25 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes.

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 MR. GIROD: That's a yes? Oh, okay. So
2 from a logical point of view it's like I don't look at the
3 power plant here in town as an environmental eyesore. I
4 think it's an asset in a world that runs on electricity.
5 I mean their computers and everybody wants something else
6 in somebody else's back yard, but it just seems like
7 that's the way it struck me is that's a real benefit for a
8 town to have the potential of two power plants.

9 And again, just random thoughts, you know,
10 in a world where potentially our dams could be targeted.
11 You could find a power plant in your town a real asset I
12 would imagine if there was no electricity available from
13 our existing power system, and it just helps to diffuse
14 some of that stress on the electrical system. It seems
15 like that's real a benefit that not only business but
16 homes would benefit. Because I mean we take electricity
17 for granted. Okay. I am probably going longer here.

18 Well, I guess that's my kind of simple way
19 of looking at it. It's like I just don't see the power
20 plant here in town as any problem.- Yeah, there's steam.
21 You know, clouds and nature is very forgiving. Its water
22 is going back. I mean just look at all the cars and so
23 forth that we have the diesel fumes and you know, it's
24 already out there. I mean look around you. I mean it's
25 out there, and it's like the earth has a way of

218-1

1 compensating, and the more technology that can be brought
2 to bear I would agree that you should always strive to
3 have the cleanest technologies that's possible and also be
4 looking at a retrofitting of being able to power it with,
5 you know, pig gas, or, you know, diesel or whatever. It
6 just seems like that's a real asset for a town. It may
7 not be as immediate, but down the road it seems like that
8 makes sense to me, if it's done wisely.

9 Because I just think people get a little too
10 whacked out about environmentalism when we're surrounded
11 by magnetic fields around us all the time. I mean look
12 around you, People. I mean we're surrounded. Haah. But
13 I mean the magnetic field from electricity are everywhere,
14 so good grief, I mean, you know, get real. I think at
15 some point we have to realize there's a reality base and
16 being able to take the responsibility to do things wisely
17 as an asset for a community.

18 So I guess that's it. But to me I mean I
19 look at your cartoons, and I thought they were kind of
20 cute. But to me I guess that's kind of what I think this
21 boils down to essentially in thinking about it is if this
22 power plant that we already have here in town is
23 essentially the same then what's the big deal times four?
24 I mean I live pretty close to the power plant across from
25 the railroad tracks. And I mean, yeah, it's kind of

1 pretty sometimes when you see a little steam cloud. I
2 don't know about your gas fumes.

3 MR. FIKSDAL: Summarize your statements.

4 MR. GIROD: Yes. But anyway I guess I was
5 wondering if somebody in your panel of knowledgeable
6 experts out there could essentially bring it down to that
7 kind of point of view as to the impacts of what we already
8 have compared to what it would be times four. And aren't
9 we already using the water? Aren't we already doing all
10 that stuff?

218-2

Speaker 219

11 MR. BOS: My name is Robert Bos. I am from
12 Abbotsford, British Columbia, and President of the
13 Abbotsford Downtown Business Association. And we are the
14 heart of where these proposed power lines are suppose to
15 go through Canada. We are in the process of doing some
16 major revitalization right now, reviving the old part of
17 town, and that's exactly where these lines are proposed to
18 go.

19 But that's really not the issue here
20 tonight. I think the issue here is basically pollution.
21 There's different types of pollution. There's air
22 pollution, there's visual pollution, there's noise
23 pollution. Now noise pollution I am not sure what kind
24 you're going to end up with this plant, but visual
25 pollution with the overhead power lines would be plenty of

1 it. Air pollution, well, spend a little time in the
2 summer, take a drive out to Harrison Hot Springs out
3 towards Chilliwack and just see what kind of air we have
4 out there. You know, if you fly over the area and took a
5 good look what you find on the topographical of this area
6 is that it's like a funnel. It's a wide open mouth of
7 Vancouver and Bellingham. But it gets narrower the
8 further you go inland, and what we end up with is all the
9 pollution from Vancouver, from Bellingham, from everywhere
10 else, all the industrial areas funnel right into here, and
11 the dead end of the pollution is Hope. That's where you
12 start into the Fraser Canyon. It gets pretty thick.

13 Now to think of you even adding more, I
14 don't know. It seems a little bit scary. I would urge
15 you on the behalf at least the Business Association, I
16 represent about 200 businesses downtown in the old part of
17 town. There's a lot more in the general city, but this is
18 the old part, and I would urge you to really, really
19 reconsider this particular proposal because there must be
20 a better way.

21 I would think with today's technology that
22 there must be a way that we can develop new generators
23 that work with water that can increase the capacity by
24 another 50 percent. I mean there's got to be all sorts of
25 ways of doing it. The idea of doing this plant down here

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 in which was turned down incidentally in Abbotsford I
2 believe a year or two ago the proposal to put there. We
3 turned it down because we did not want the air pollution,
4 and it looks like if it happens here we'll get it
5 regardless.

6 The power lines that would be going from
7 here to the substation at Clayburn Road transfer over to
8 Serie and then back down into the U.S. grid would be
9 strictly, they will be generating power strictly for the
10 U.S. customer. There's a lot of opposition to this in
11 Abbotsford and the opposition is building, so I would
12 actually request that you really take a good serious look
13 at this. Thank you very much.

219-2

14 MR. RIEDLINGER: My name is Robert
15 Riedlinger, and I am here to represent the electric
16 magnetic sensitive people somehow or another.

17 MR. FIKSDAL: Your address, please.

18 MR. RIEDLINGER: I live in Mission, B.C.

19 Somehow or another there's a lot of
20 electromagnetic sensitive people that are overlooked, and
21 they go to their doctor and they call it chronic fatigue,
22 fibromyalgia, headaches, chronic headaches, and all kinds
23 of stuff. But I happen to suffer from electromagnetic
24 sensitivity since I moved beside a cell phone tower, a
25 broadcast radio, T.V. tower, and it's completely changed

Speaker 220

1 my life.

2 So I am concerned not about me. I am 69
3 now. But about the little babies, little children that
4 have to live near these power lines. They're just as
5 deadly as the others, the cell phone towers.

6 I just want to read one little part here.

7 Batelle is a private company that performs contract
8 research on many different types for many different
9 organizations. Batelle began power line EMF activities on
10 behalf of the power industry in March 1976, and this
11 relationship has continued to the present. Without
12 interruption the dimension of Batelle and involvement with
13 EMF is hard to discern exactly, but it far exceeds in
14 scope and impact than any other group or organization that
15 has performed EMF research. Batelle has probably received
16 more than a million dollars or a hundred million dollars
17 in funding for EMF research, and it's employees have made
18 more than one thousand presentations and reports dealing
19 with EMF bio effects.

20 This is what they say. Neither scientists
21 nor the public can rely on power industry research or
22 analysis to help decide whether power line electromagnetic
23 fields affect human health because power industry research
24 and analysis are radically misleading. That's my one
25 statement.

220-1

1 Three years ago the U.S. Weekend Magazine
2 polled it's circulation of nearly 34 million readers. The
3 number one environmental health priority, a staggering 35
4 percent of the respondents nominated electromagnetic
5 fields followed by the chemicals in foods and indoor air
6 quality.

7 U.K. Childhood Cancer Study. New
8 controversy over power lines. When results from the U.K.
9 Childhood Cancer Study were released the headline on the
10 press released that: Major study finds no link between
11 overhead power cables and childhood cancer, but that soon
12 became a point of controversy. Scientists at the
13 University of Bristol argue that the U.K. CCS shows
14 exactly the opposite. I've got the studies to back these.

15 Last week the National Institute of
16 Environmental Health, this is not last week, but it reads
17 that way. It's about a year ago. Recommended to Congress
18 that EMF exposure be recognized as a possible cancer
19 hazard.

20 Workshop on possible biological and health
21 effects of RF, Electromagnetic Fields, EMF Resolution.
22 That was last year, October. That would be in 1998
23 preamble participants agreed. That was 16 scientists at
24 that meeting. They're all listed here. They all agreed
25 that biological effects from low intensity exposures are

220-1

1 scientifically established.

2 A recent study at the hospital for sick
3 children at the University of Condal found that children
4 under the age of six who were exposed to higher levels of
5 magnetic fields in their homes during the first two years
6 of their life were four and a half times more likely to
7 develop leukemia.

220-1

8 Dr. Henry Li here in the Washington State
9 University in Seattle, acute exposure to 60 hertz magnetic
10 field increases DNA damage in rat brain cells. Now, it's
11 already established by this Bartelle or Batelle that we
12 get misleading information regarding electromagnetic
13 fields. It's very hard to determine because it's hard to
14 measure and due to the invisibility of it, it's an
15 invisible force that's more dangerous than anything you
16 can see, but we don't see it, so we don't worry about it.

17 MR. FIKSDAL: Could you summarize, please.

18

19 MR. RIEDLINGER: Pardon?

20 MR. FIKSDAL: Could you please your
21 statement.

22 MR. RIEDLINGER: Summarize the statement?

23 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes, your allotted time is
24 nearing the end.

25 MR. RIEDLINGER: Okay. Well, to begin with

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 here's a picture of how our government in Canada measures
2 to see how much we can stand of electromagnetic field.
3 They use a skeleton like a fake head and a fake brain, and
4 they put this piece of fiberglass with some stuff that's
5 suppose to represent a brain, and they probe it with
6 electromagnetic field, and they say, well, if it doesn't
7 heat you, it doesn't hurt you. But the thing can't tell
8 you if it's getting a headache. Thank you.

9 MR. NOTEBOOM: My name is Irwin Noteboom. I
10 live at 8000 Thiel Road, Lynden, Washington. In going
11 over the DEIS I was presented with a few things that
12 really stuck in my craw. Mainly something like
13 mitigation, no significant adverse impact, state of the
14 art, best available technology, and I will give you
15 examples here that really bother.

16 For the CO2 we're going to mitigate by
17 voluntarily giving some money each year to a group, and in
18 effect we're going to buy them off. How does this reduce
19 CO2 emissions in this Sumas Energy 2 plant? It doesn't.
20 How does it reduce the greenhouse-gas? It doesn't. And
21 then we talk about the 3.2 ton of emissions coming out of
22 the stack, and we conclude that there is no significant
23 adverse impact. Baloney.

24 We've been hearing from Canada here in the
25 last few days once they have got word of this power plant

Speaker 221

221-1

1 going in, and I think it's now a pipe dream that the
2 Canadian people are going to be patient with the
3 transmission line, and I would also urge them to take a
4 look at the increased water flow that they're going to be
5 getting. The Abbotsford News in the paper today stated
6 that if this here water is so clean why don't they just
7 recycle it at the plant? And I think that's a very valid
8 point because I have an idea there are going to be
9 pollutants in that water also, mainly heavy metals.

221-2

10 We are not getting much help from our
11 legislature down here. They are completely misinformed
12 and out to lunch on this issue. It's partially
13 understandable because of the intense lobbying by Sumas 2.
14 I am sure they have been properly wined and dined, and it
15 bothers me. I hope we have a really good memory come
16 election time.

17 So this brings me to the power lines going
18 through the county, and I find them discussed very
19 inadequately in the DEIS. I have a friend who was an
20 engineer for a power company down south, and he can't
21 believe they're going to shove this much power through 115
22 kV lines. He stated that's not only extremely
23 inefficient, it's also dangerous to life and property.

221-3

24 I want to know the truth about this, and I
25 don't think I am going to find it in the DEIS. For

1 instance, on Page 3.2-18 the nearest residence to either
2 line ROW edge would be approximately 75 feet. That's an
3 absolute fabrication. My son's bedroom is less than 40
4 feet on our two-story house from where that line would be.
5 And how do I know which side of the road it's going on
6 because the barn on the other side of the road sticks out
7 too far and they can't go there?

221-4

8 Also I see no parameters for magnetic field
9 safety. Who looks over the health and safety of the
10 families? Who is accountable if the magnetic field is too
11 high for safety? Would the power be shut off if the
12 magnetic field endanger persists. How do you mitigate a
13 death caused by magnetic field exposure? You make more
14 babies somewhere else?

15 If this line is so safe why does it snake
16 all over the county? Why not a straight line from A to B?
17 I understand the lines are formulated to impact the least
18 people. Well, duh. We were zoned that way by county
19 ordinance, zoning laws, so now we're able to enjoy
20 transmission lines.

221-5

21 Our property values will be reduced by
22 thousands of dollars, and I see no mention of this, or is
23 this classified as no significant adverse impact? I'm a
24 dairy farmer. There are numerous studies on stray voltage
25 and the effects on dairy cows. Yet I see no mention of

221-6

1 this in the DEIS. I am not allowed to pollute my
2 neighbors or any streams on my farm. Why can this power
3 company be allowed to pollute my farm with stray voltage
4 and not be held accountable, or is this another no
5 significant adverse impact?

6 I cannot believe that a company with any
7 ethics would propose this type of transmission lines next
8 to residences and farms.

9 I pulled up some information on my
10 handy-dandy computer, and I found the net return of 28
11 percent on investment for Calpine Corporation last year.
12 This is an Associate of NESCO, if not the main bank
13 roller. At 28 percent of 400 hundred million dollars,
14 which is the cost of the plant, the very hefty profit of
15 almost ten million per month is realized by this plant. I
16 don't mind the company making a profit, but I do when it
17 devalues my property and endangers my safety and health.
18 That is a significant adverse impact, and I demand that it
19 be so stated in the DEIS. Thank you.

20 MS. ROSS: Patricia Ross, 2324 Minor Street,
21 Abbotsford, B.C. I just have two questions I was hoping
22 somebody on the panel could answer. You mentioned PM10s
23 in the particulate PM10s, but what I'm more concerned
24 about is the fine particulate 2.5 because the 2.5 is
25 what's most harmful to human health.

Speaker 222

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 Apparently in the states, this is what I
2 understand, is apparently in the states you refer you dump
3 the 2.5 in with the PM10s, but we separate them in Canada
4 because the 2.5s are what's most harmful, so I would just
5 like a little bit -- and I did speak to a representative
6 from Sumas 2 who did tell me that it would emit 2.5, so I
7 would just like a little information on that if I could.

222-1

8 My second question, the data on the
9 emissions is on a new facility working at her optimum
10 working conditions, and I was just wondering if you could
11 tell me if there's potential that those emissions will
12 increase as the facility ages and when breakdowns occur?

222-2

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can we get an answer to
14 those questions later or when?

15 MR. FIKSDAL: We're not here to answer
16 questions. It was here for you to have statements
17 regarding the DEIS. I might say that PM10 is the
18 regulatory level of the State of Washington for
19 particulate matter. That's why it is mentioned
20 because that is what it's regulated to. All your comments
21 will be considered in the final DEIS.

22 MS. MIKULAN: My name is Andrea Mikulan, and
23 my address is 35573 Old Dale Road in Abbotsford, British
24 Columbia.

Speaker 223

25 This whole process or this whole

1 understanding of what was going to be happening in Sumas
2 was rather recently foisted on us in that community.
3 There was an information session apparently held last
4 July. There was a very small notice that I was told was
5 included in the classified ads down there with the used
6 bicycles. It also was posted last July when people were
7 on holidays. This was not an issue that came to the
8 forefront being public in Abbotsford until very recently
9 when one of our newspapers picked it up just before the
10 second information meeting that Sumas Energy 2 held there.

11 I can tell you that once the people realized
12 that this was about to become a reality they were very
13 unhappy. There are a lot of very angry people there. I
14 am in the process of writing a letter to the National
15 Energy Board. I wanted to come to this meeting first to
16 see what additional information I can pass out. Certainly
17 the Draft EIS was never made available to the public
18 there. Although, we are certainly equally impacted on our
19 side of the border, so I'd like to read some of the letter
20 that I am writing to our National Energy Board.

21 I, as a resident of the City of Abbotsford
22 only recently found out about this proposal to allow the
23 building of a high tension electrical tower to transmit
24 230,000 volts of electrical energy from a proposed plant
25 being built in Sumas, Washington to the Clayburn

1 Substation just north of downtown Abbotsford.

2 I, among the many others, stand vehemently
3 opposed to this for the following reasons: Health
4 concerns, no definitive scientific evidence exists as yet
5 to prove or to disprove a causative relationship between
6 large electromagnetic force fields and cancer; however,
7 enough anecdotal evidence does exist to support erring on
8 the side of caution.

9 Since the proposed route of the power poles
10 runs along the existing CP rail line through Abbotsford,
11 it will come in close contact with well established
12 residential neighborhoods, businesses, and schools,
13 including the Abbotsford Child development Center, which
14 also houses a day care, and it's located not 50 feet from
15 the C.P. right of way where the poles will run.

16 To risk the health of our children and our
17 neighbors in this manner when we don't know the effects
18 would be unconscionable.

19 Property values. A local realtor has
20 estimated that the value of property in the vicinity of
21 the power line could drop as much as 40 percent if this
22 proposal goes through. Homeowners and long-time residents
23 who counted on rising properties values would lose equity
24 and may be unable to sell certainly at current market
25 value and perhaps not at all. This could wipe out

223-1

223-2

1 people's life savings.

2 Further depression of downtown Abbotsford.
3 Downtown Abbotsford has embarked on an ambitious
4 rejuvenation program. Fundings from the downtown
5 merchants and our tax dollars have already been spent and
6 more is earmarked to complete the process that will
7 hopefully draw shoppers back to the downtown core.

223-2

8 Now the core has suffered since the suburban
9 malls have been built on the outskirts. These electrical
10 transmission poles would run right through our downtown
11 core and would be the final stake through the heart to
12 finish it off completely.

13 Pollution. Although Sumas Energy 2 Power
14 Plant itself would be built wholly on U.S. soil in Sumas
15 its proximity to our community would contribute to our
16 worsening air pollution. The funnel effect of our
17 surrounding local mountains in the Fraser Valley tend to
18 trap and concentrate pollutants carried by the prevailing
19 westerlies. This is quite a unique situation.

223-3

20 Many large metro urban areas in which
21 pollution is a concern do not have to contend with this
22 type of topography. We already have the third highest
23 levels of air pollution in all of Canada with
24 corresponding increases in asthma and other respiratory
25 problems. The last thing we need is a large fossil fuel

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 burning power plant on our border.

2 I believe if the transmission lines proposal
3 are defeated by the National Energy Board this plant in
4 Sumas will not be built. I would also like to address the
5 gentleman who said that he believed that our earth is very
6 forgiving.

7 I believe that science has shown with the
8 increases in pollutants that the global warming effect our
9 earth is not infinite. It is a finite earth, and we are
10 quickly reaching its ability to forgive. Thank you very
11 much.

12 MR. WILSON: My name is Dave Wilson. I live
13 on Rencreasent in Abbotsford. Pretty much everybody said
14 most of what I wanted I guess, but I measured it out too.
15 It's about 90 feet from my door. I bought there a couple
16 years ago. Finally getting enough money to buy a place,
17 and now they're going to drop this in my back yard.

18 And as further the meeting they had a couple
19 weeks ago up in Abbotsford was quite a chaotic affair, and
20 I received this notice from some lawyers in Vancouver that
21 are dealing with Sumas Energy, and I have gone around my
22 neighborhood and these have been handed around. Maybe one
23 out of every five houses got one. Half the people don't
24 even know what's going on, if it wasn't for the paper
25 picking up on it. Absolutely no questions were really

Speaker 224

224-1

224-2

1 answered at the open house. There was just hundreds of
2 people there. They had a room the size of a bathroom.
3 They obviously knew there would be a little bit of trouble
4 there, and, you know, every year just to buy insurance for
5 my car I've got to run it through this air care program
6 which makes sure my car ain't spitting out more than it
7 should, and now we are going to have these guys pumping
8 all that in.

9 And like everybody has stated you just go up
0 anywhere passed these mountains and then drive back, and 224-3
1 you get to the top of that highway, and you can't, most
2 days you can't even see the ground because there's so much
3 smog covering that whole valley, and it's just going to
4 choke it even farther back here.

5 So as one gentleman said he didn't have much
6 trouble with the emissions. Well, maybe he lives on the
7 south side of the plant because it doesn't go that way.
8 It comes this way.

9 So I was just kind of wondering who's going
10 to buy my place, and are they going to compensate us, and 224-4
11 are they going to buy our property and we'll all move on?
12 Well, that's about all I have to say.

13 MS. MCGUIRE: Good evening everyone. I'm a
14 resident also of Abbotsford.

15 MR. FIKSDAL: Would you state your name and

Speaker 225

1 address, please.

2 MS. MCGUIRE: Noni McGuire, and I live at
3 34705 Third Avenue in Abbotsford. My family several years
4 ago moved to Huntingdon. We liked it. It had a beautiful
5 view, nice pasture lands, quiet. We could go bike riding
6 with our kids. We'd come quite often down across the
7 lines to Sumas.

8 Sumas is like our corner store. We think of
9 the residents in Sumas as our neighbors and no different
10 than being on 7th Avenue.

11 We are opposed to this whole idea. The way
12 the company has brought this forward was a real shoddy way
13 as far as I am concerned. There were 900 residents that
14 received notification of this. 900. There's
15 approximately 50,000 or more. I am not sure exactly the
16 number in Abbotsford. That's about ten percent I believe,
17 and out of ten percent I think they were figuring one
18 percent of that would show up for the meeting on Wednesday
19 night. They figured they had a room about the size of a
20 bathroom like the other gentleman said, and they were
21 expecting about nine people.

22 Because one neighbor of mine received this
23 information, and we had maps and so on and so forth, we
24 contacted the news. I felt that this was kind of little
25 bit strange that I didn't get one. I only live four

1 houses away from here in Huntingdon, three blocks that
2 way.

3 I don't know how many residents here
4 received them, but I hopefully hope that you guys received
5 more information than we did.

6 From that point on I saw this information,
7 and I was just like this can't be. This just can't be. I
8 am sure we would have heard more than this. This can't
9 be. So at that point I said, well, we better find out, so
10 I phoned the post office to find out if there was a
11 circulation done. If there were many people in the area
12 would have received it, and that was not the case. As a
13 matter of fact there was nobody else that was receiving
14 that mailing in our neighborhood, so there might have been
15 three.

225-1

16 So then I think okay. Well, I think we need
17 to notify some people that, you know, they're going to be
18 putting power lines approximately, you know, what, 200
19 feet from their house?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fifty.

21 MS. MCGUIRE: Thank you. And running down
22 the tracks, and the picture that I saw that was taken and
23 publicized and the couple that did get them seemed to be
24 an old picture. 1999 it was I believe. We since then
25 we've had residents living on Fifth, Sixth, Seventh,

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 Farmer Road. We also have a Rebby, a Costco, and a
2 Zellers, a mini mall down there, which I know a lot of
3 residents in this area also come across to shop as they
4 get a good buck for their dollar. We have there's a steel
5 plant right there.

6 Now I don't know. I don't know a whole lot
7 about electricity, but I think a steel plant might be a
8 conductor of electricity, and I don't think that would be
9 very good for them. This is a new facility. It was
10 bringing some work into the lower Fraser Valley.

11 And again, the problem with the pollution.
12 It is bad in the summertime. We are in an agricultural
13 area where we have field crop dusting and pesticides and a
14 few things like that which makes it hard enough for
15 asthma, and now you want to throw in a few more
16 combinations. Who knows what the adverse effects are
17 going to be from all of that?

18 I certainly don't want my kids, and I'm not
19 thinking of my just myself, there's generations to come
20 yet, and it's nice to think we would have a valley as
21 pretty as this one in ten years from now, and it wouldn't
22 be so bad. That the last time I went through Hope I was
23 shocked, absolutely shocked.

24 I came down from the Fraser Valley, and I
25 hit Hope, and I was like, oh, my God. Is it always like

225-2

1 this? I have never seen this all my childhood. I grew up
2 here. I was shocked. It's probably been about seven
3 years since I have been up there, but I was absolutely
4 shocked. It's thicker than thick. You can't see the
5 mountains, and in Hope the mountains are here and here,
6 and you can't see them. There's a problem. And if we're
7 getting that there, you can bet it's going to back up
8 here, and these residents in this neighborhood are going
9 to be breathing just as thickly as we are because we are
10 in the same wind tunnel. It blows northeasterly in the
11 winter, southwesterly in the fall, and anything that's in
12 this valley right here is going to come through.

225-3

13 Yes, it's going to disturb our flood plain.
14 Oh, they didn't tell you that. Well, according to if they
15 do build this plant they could raise the water level one
16 foot. Now I don't know if any of you guys experienced the
17 flooding that we had a couple years ago. I happened to
18 move just after that. But even just the scare of hearing
19 your alarms go on this side scared me to death. I was
20 running down the edge of my driveway looking for this
21 tidal wave not knowing what to expect as I'm sure the rest
22 of you guys have.

225-4

23 Other areas further out did get severe
24 flooding, but we're fighting it here on a constant basis.
25 We are just barely if we are lucky above the flood plain

1 and managing to stay above dry land. So that's a very
2 strong issue.

3 Eagles. Look at our beautiful eagles here.

4 Anybody that's driven down Zero Avenue knows that there
5 are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of eagles sitting
6 in those trees. What do you think will happened to them
7 when they can't breathe? And you can bet if they leave we
8 bloody well better be because we're a lot bigger than
9 them. We're breathing a lot more than they are. Those
10 eagles some of them are huge and that's something that we
11 should be considering. There's wildlife. There's streams
12 here. It's going through an archaeological site. It's
13 going through three creeks in B.C. I don't know how many
14 are down in this area, but I know it's an area where you
15 probably had some nice, you know, quiet fishing, pastures,
16 and so on and so forth.

225-5

17 And what I don't understand is if this was
18 such a good idea that you're hooking up to our power and
19 bringing it across the line, why is it Canadians are not
20 building that plant on that side and how would the
21 residents here feel if we built the plant, sold it to you
22 guys, you get your pollution, we take your water, and what
23 else can we give you? I don't think you guys would
24 appreciate it either.

225-6

25 So we have to work together on this. This

1 is our neighborhood. Our neighborhood. If other people
 2 don't live here, they don't care about us. We have to
 3 protect ourselves, and we have to stop this plant, and we
 4 have to stop these power lines. It's disturbing our
 5 environment. Thank you.

6 MR. EHLERS: My name is Darryl Ehlers. I
 7 live at 2366 Halverstick Road, Lynden, Washington. I live
 8 approximately four miles west of Sumas right along the
 9 Canadian border. I'd like to submit three photographs.
 10 They're wrote on the back explaining it. For the crowd I
 11 realize that I will do a little bit of repeating tonight,
 12 but I will keep it in kind of a summary of it.

Speaker 226

13 One picture is a picture of a labor camp.
 14 I'm a farmer, and I have approximately about a mile of
 15 frontage, and in this mile of frontage I have a labor camp
 16 that houses about 40 adults and a bunch of children. And
 17 because this is a grandfather type clause of this labor
 18 camp the cabins are awful close to the road, and the
 19 cabins have tin roofs, and they have metal sides.

226-1

20 For the proposed power line hopefully the
 21 Canadians don't allow the power line to go into Canada,
 22 and that so there was going to be two corridors that would
 23 lead into across the Whatcom County. One going through
 24 Everson heading toward Bellingham, and the other one
 25 running parallel with the border and kind of walking kitty

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 corner across the county Custer.

2 The other picture is our farm park. There's
3 hundred-year-old trees. For them to be able to run a
4 power through there they would end up having to destroy
5 part of that park, and this is only one mile of many miles
6 in the county that this power line would end up affecting.
7 The 115 kVa that they plan on running they plan to be able
8 to get enough amperage. They're going to pump up the
9 amperage, so it will be higher than just your normal 115
10 kVa line.

11 If these lines are allowed to go across the
12 county and this plant gets its chance to be built who is
13 to say that they wouldn't come back and say we've got a
14 hardship. We need to run this at a 230 line and be able
15 to upgrade that corridor.

16 Anyway here's the paper, and there's one
17 more set of papers. It's a newspaper. At least our
18 Governor has some common sense to veto the tax give away
19 that this plant was asking for, 24 million dollars. We
20 have some legislature right now. I kind of question
21 sometimes when the proponent talks about it. You need to
22 ask are they part of the buy out? Are they part of the
23 take on this?

24 I'm just a normal citizen, and I've got a
25 lot to find out about all of this. Also I have got three

226-2

226-3

1 headline papers from the Abbotsford News, and the
2 Abbotsford People really start to gets on the ball here,
3 and so I am submitting this.

226-3

4 I have been a farmer since about 1946. I
5 was 8 years old when we started out. We've got water
6 rights to our wells that date back to 1953. In this
7 report, EIS report, states that if this plant happens to
8 draw too much water and some of the wells happen to go
9 dry, then you have an appertinent water right. What you
10 have is no mitigation back at these people. You either
11 get to drill another well or drill it deeper, and whether
12 you reach water.

226-4

13 The usage of the water in this plant is
14 tremendous. Sumas is giving out all of their water rights
15 for a 20-year projection that they have, so this means
16 that Sumas can't get more people to move in for
17 businesses. They're giving it all to Sumas Energy. I am
18 concerned because I've got crops to irrigate. There's a
19 lot of farmers and the amount of money and the amount of
20 workers we hire as local citizens in this community is far
21 more than this 24 people that they're talking about
22 employing at this plant.

226-5

23 I realize that Sumas feels that they're
24 broke and they want lots of tax money. I feel it's a very
25 strong mistake. They also if this power line goes passed

1 my place they are going to take I believe 35 feet from the
2 center line. I've heard a lot of comment before that some
3 of these poles would be 20 feet away from a person's
4 house. I would have to take out raspberry plants and
5 blueberry plants to be able to negotiate my machinery
6 around these poles where they plan on placing them.

226-6

7 And as far as I don't know if anybody's seen
8 the movie Erin Brokovich. I strongly suggest you go see
9 it. I was noticing in some of their reports that they had
10 this Chromium 6. I am not a scientist, and I just started
11 hearing about this plant in I think it was early January
12 they started giving papers out on it.

226-7

13 A lot of the citizens are trying to dig into
14 all the information. They're not paid for doing this, but
15 for protection of our own life and limb and this
16 territory, and so I am asking the committee, again, that
17 we need an extension, so that the citizens have a chance
18 to be able to go into more research on this, so that we
19 know and the whole community is satisfied of the safety of
20 it rather than the people that are out to get the money
21 for this project. Let us all in on this. I really
22 appreciate that.

226-8

23 MR. FIKSDAL: Mr. Ehlers, your time is up.

24 MR. EHLERS: Oh, okay. The Sumas, the
25 present cogen plant here is under the PERPA laws, and the

1 PERPA laws means that if they use a secondary use of their
2 generation that the power utility has to buy the
3 electricity. Puget Power has to pay two to three times
4 more for the electricity of Sumas Energy, and Sumas energy
5 has refused to negotiate this price down. This means you
6 as a rate payer you might be saving on taxes, but you're
7 more on your electricity cost because of this, and who's
8 to say whether this other present plan would not turn
9 their plan into also the PERPA. Thank you.

10 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. The people that
11 we're hearing from now we heard from last night, and if
12 you could speak to separate topics, it would be nice.

13 MR. DeBRUYN: Yes, I will. And I will speak
14 directly to the Environmental Impact Statement, and I
15 appreciate a little bit of leeway on the time as I will
16 here stick exactly to the topic of the Environmental
17 Impact Statement.

Speaker 227

18 My name is Paul DeBruyn. I live at 116
19 Avenue Drive, in Everson, Washington. I am a part time
20 biology instructor at Whatcom Community College, and I am
21 a practicing Falconer. I've studied birds of prey in the
22 area for the last 25 years. My area of expertise is
23 birds. I teach a 100 level college course in biology, the
24 water, in shoreline birds of the area. Along with Randal
25 Map of Lynden I've been studying winter and birds prey in

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 northern Whatcom County intensively for the last 10 years
2 and nesting falcons in Washington and B.C. since 1993.

3 Tonight I want to talk about the wildlife
4 section of the draft. Section 3.5 that is if you're
5 following along, the special reference to birds. I was
6 going to start by going line by line through this whole
7 thing, but I got so bogged down that I'll probably just
8 make it through the first page of that wildlife section,
9 and I'm going to conclude with some thoughts on the
10 shortcomings of the document.

11 Starting on Page 3.5-1 entitled sources of
12 information. I was interested in reading this section.
13 My first reading of the draft showed it to be very weak in
14 the area wildlife. In short, if one of my college
15 students turned this in, I would give it back to them and
16 say try again. If I got it a second time, I would flunk
17 this hypothetical student and believe me I don't flunk
18 many students.

19 The first line reads: Site specific
20 biological resource surveys conducted by the Applicant
21 consultants, Dames and Moore and Black & Veatch. I was
22 little bit confused there because I thought this was
23 prepared by the Jones & Stokes as the consultant, but
24 anyway were the consultants that prepared this document.

25 Deeper in the draft on Page 6.1, I found the

227-1

1 name of an actual person who's cited as the wildlife
2 biologist on Page 6.1. I called Jones & Stokes and talked
3 with biologist Steve Hall to get some more particulars
4 about the methodology used to prepare the draft.

5 Steve Hall informed me that although he had
6 written the wildlife section of the draft he had never
7 visited the site. He told me all the data came from the
8 Applicant's consultant; that is Dames and Moore. So it
9 gets a little confusing, but I think I have got it
10 straightened out.

11 Basically it all came out of the
12 application. It was available in the application. He
13 asked me who I was, who I was with, and I told him I was
14 with no one, and he clammed right up. He said he wasn't
15 suppose to be talking with anyone but the client who it
16 turns out is EFSEC, who is paying Jones & Stokes. It
17 turns out Jones & Stokes are being paid by EFSEC, and
18 Dames and Moore are being paid by SE2.

19 So basically what I have found is it's
20 basically information laundering. There is no new data in
21 that blue book. It all came out of the application.
22 Mr. Davidson was right. He suggested I talk to Allen
23 Fiksdal who I could not get a hold of if I wanted anything
24 more.

25 Going back to the application to find out

227-1

1 the methodology, I discovered that there was a lie in the
2 very first line. It read, the draft says: Over one year
3 of research it says specific site surveys were conducted
4 the one day in September 1998 -- no, it says, it basically
5 said that the research was conducted from September 1998
6 to October 1999.

7 Going back to the application I discovered
8 that what it really said in the source of this information
9 was that they had spend spent days. They spent one day in
10 1998 and one day in 1999. And they lied. They said right
11 in there that they'd been there over a year when in fact
12 they had been there for two days. One year seemed like
13 enough time to do the field work. Two days in the fall
14 season is a joke.

15 Keep in mind that all this field work, this
16 field work was for all the fish and wildlife, for all the
17 corridors in the plant site in two days. That seems a
18 little weak. I was now able to understand why the section
19 was so pathetic and was beginning to think EFSEC hadn't
20 gotten much for their money. Two days in the off season
21 to survey all the fish and wildlife in all corridors in
22 the plant site, my professional opinion is that it would
23 take at least one year to adequately study the question of
24 fish and wildlife.

25 Distribution of fish and wildlife,

227-2

1 especially birds, is highly seasonal, and one would have
2 to at least visit the site study area during the season to
3 adequately assess the status of species present.

4 September and October are the worst times possible as
5 breeding birds are disbursed and wintering species have
6 yet to arrive.

7 Looking at the application again I found
8 that during their opportunistic field surveys, their term,
9 "opportunistic field surveys" that basically means they
10 just get out and walk around and look for stuff.

11 Dames and Moore biologists had only observed
12 8 species of birds. During the break from writing this
13 today, I drove up from the Nooksack River, up one of the
14 corridors, sat in my truck at the proposed site for ten
15 minutes and tallied up the bird species I had seen. I saw
16 24 species. I tripled their output in a total of about 45
17 minutes.

18 I also saw about 7 of the 8 species that
19 Dames and Moore had observed in their supposed two years
20 which was actually two days in about 45 minutes.

21 MR. FIKSDAL: Mr. DeBruyn, your time is
22 almost up.

23 MR. DeBRUYN: I would beg a little bit more
24 time here because this is speaking exactly to the EIS.

25 MR. FIKSDAL: If you would like you can

227-3

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 submit that as your written comment.

2 MR. DeBruyn: I plan on it, and I plan on
3 submitting a lot more. But basically I want to get into
4 the literature cited and then I'll finish.

5 The second section there was literature
6 cited. I have two books here. Anybody familiar with
7 those? Dames and Moore are you familiar with these? Not
8 cited. One of them 1997; one of them 1995. They cover
9 all aspects of Bird distribution in Whatcom County. The
10 books cited in the study one of them is from 1968 which is
11 considered pretty much of a joke by any birder because it
12 was written by an old teetering guy in Seattle.

227-4

13 The other one is written in 1937 which was
14 state of art the 73 years ago. Because I obviously don't
15 have time to go through the old section this is just a
16 narrow, very narrow section of my expertise that is
17 riddled, totally riddled with errors, inconsistencies, and
18 outright falsehoods. I suggest that the whole section be
19 thrown out, and I think that anybody who knew anything
20 about birds or fish and wildlife would recommend the same
21 thing. Thank you.

227-5

22 MS. LURCH: Good evening. I spoke last
23 night. I do plan to make different comments tonight. My
24 name is Ronna Lurch, and I live at 116 Aspen Drive in
25 Everson, Washington. I am a nurse. Given the limited

Speaker 228

1 choices presented in the DEIS I urge you, Council Members,
2 to recommend no action on the proposed Sumas Energy 2
3 Plant. This project needs to be shut down. Why do I say
4 this?

228-1

5 No. 1, there are no alternatives in the
6 DEIS. It's presented as either yes or no. Today's world
7 is too complex for such simplistic solutions to huge
8 questions of jobs, community health, environment, and so
9 on, the topics that have been raised by all of the people
10 who you have heard from last night and tonight.

11 Our world is no longer black or white, but
12 one in which tremendously complex issues need to be
13 weighed and assessed carefully, thoroughly by experts and
14 current knowledge in order to find solutions to meet our
15 complex needs. One that allows some choices and
16 adaptations that can be made along the way. The fact that
17 the DEIS is developed with such constricted choices yah or
18 nay really makes me think it's a setup.

228-2

19 Secondly, our reliance on standards in this
20 document which state that all the emissions and
21 byproducts, including noise which I spoke about last night
22 of this plant are within standards, this bothers me.
23 Perhaps our reliance on science and scientific method to
24 provide answers and standards places citizens in jeopardy.
25 We should rely really on what people tell us about their

228-3

1 health. There's overwhelming evidence that people given a
2 terminal sentence of cancer, literally a death sentence,
3 recover completely, spontaneously, and science has
4 absolutely no answer for this.

5 We should rely, and I would like to comment
6 on the Sumas City Planner who further misleads us by
7 showing us how these emissions compare to what is already
8 in the air shed. The question here is not how it compares
9 with anything, but how these emissions will add to the air
10 shed and what the cumulative effects and what this means
11 to people.

228-4

12 His findings are also based on a 1996
13 estimate which does not include the IKO plant. In fact,
14 all of the modeling done for this DEIS statement do not
15 include findings since that IKO plant was made. I hope
16 that's what that's called.

228-5

17 And finally it's time to change. It's time
18 to do it a different way. Governor Locke, thank goodness,
19 vetoed the tax break because he was reminded by two
20 cabinet members that Washington had a commitment to
21 develop clean air and clean energy production.

22 Secondly, we heard substantial testimony
23 last night not only reflecting findings of the DEIS --
24 sorry -- not only refuting findings of the DEIS but
25 offering clean, innovative, creative alternatives to the

1 proposal as written. There are better ways to light our
2 homes and power our hair dryers. We need some of those
3 like we heard many of those ideas last night, and I spoke
4 outside with some other individuals who discounted some of
5 the comments that were made on alternative energy sources.

228-6

6 If Darrell Jones were really a friendly
7 neighbor, he would have sought input from local experts on
8 viable alternatives. It is a matter of how to make the
9 most money in collusion with local and state governments.
10 That's what's going on here. He seems to have vast
11 resources, all of which he appears to be using to avoid
12 legitimate processes to include citizen input I think as
13 stated in some of the flaws and recycled data that are in
14 this DEIS statement.

228-7

15 If the Sumas City Planners were truly
16 looking for ways to improve the life of their community,
17 they would seek an industry and industries that provide
18 clean jobs with livable wages and industries that don't
19 poison the citizens of Whatcom County and those of our
20 Canadian neighbors.

228-8

21 And then finally I ask you again to extend
22 the comment period. I did commit myself to doing some
23 study on noise and cumulative effects of noise. I
24 certainly haven't done it since last night when I made
25 that promise, and I have a very full and busy life and

228-9

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 would really appreciate being able to provide some input
2 that might be useful to you folks. Thank you.

3 MR. VAUTAUX: Hi, I was here last night too
4 or down there. Paul Vautaux, 4626 Van Wyck Lane. I guess
5 I am already friendly with you guys.

Speaker 229

6 Well, first of all, I want to thank you all
7 for being here. I imagine this is just as difficult for
8 you guys to go through as it is for us. I have a great
9 deal of respect for the people of Sumas who are seeking to
10 improve their community, and I really think you all
11 deserve a round of applause for yourselves for what you're
12 trying to do. I also respect all the other people in the
13 county that we call home.

14 This issue affects and needs to involve all
15 the people of the county. I have no intent to offend
16 anyone, but I am sure I will. I guess, first of all, I
17 think it ought to be known that Mr. Jones already owns the
18 rights to the gas fields in Canada. Sumas is just a
19 convenient place to put this. The placement of the plant
20 is not intended to benefit Sumas. You must understand
21 that. This is a convenience to the company. Also I feel
22 that the DEIS is inadequate and I think that's becoming
23 quite obvious.

229-1

229-2

24 I suggest that to have an accurate
25 reflection of the impact on people and land and wildlife

1 an extensive survey of the population here in this county
2 be a part of the next statement, and that it be done arm
3 and arm with members of the community both for and
4 against, and that is not solely by the consultants. My
5 intent is fairness to this community.

229-3

6 I would also like to have included in the
7 statement all office memos from the consultants and
8 interoffice communications involved with this particular
9 job, including all communications with NESCO and Sumas
10 Energy 2. I think that's only fair. As well as other
11 consultants involved for that matter. The population that
12 you folks have seen represented in these two meetings does
13 anybody have a count of who's here tonight?

229-4

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 150 here.

15 MR. VAUTAUX: 150 here. Does anybody have
16 any idea how many were here last night?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: About a hundred.

18 MR. VAUTAUX: Two hundred and fifty people
19 speaking to an issue that affects the entire county, as
20 well as across the border. I don't know how many people
21 live there. A lot. It's much less than one percent of
22 our county. This process is not representative of the
23 people who live here and does not reflect the actual
24 impact. You must realize that. I don't know what your
25 standards are; what your formats are. There is not an

229-5

1 accurate reflection of what's going to happen.

2 To say that there is no impact from a power
3 line because it's in a rural area is foolish. That's why
4 we live here. It's because it is rural. Initially the
5 only people contacted about the project lived within 400
6 feet of it is what I understand. I live 1,300 feet from a
7 proposed power line. I mentioned that yesterday. It's in
8 the Dewey Valley, Van Wyck Road. Not much in the way of
9 power lines there now.

10 So I must drive under it daily, and I am
11 affected, so is my property value and my health. As to my
12 proposed survey, and I believe this also needs to reflect
13 some of what I believe his name is David Davidson, the
14 City. You suggested that all of this information has been
15 readily available to the community for up to at least 15
16 months is what I understand. I think that's what I heard
17 you say. I found out about this when my neighbor took the
18 time to walk through the woods to my house and say I need
19 your help. I said great. Let's work on your house. I am
20 a home builder. She goes no. It's power lines. And I
21 said, "No. No, they can't do this. We took care of this
22 question."

23 Well, the way this is being done is not
24 informative, and I feel that if you did, sir, receive
25 information 15 months ago, well, all I know is that I

1 didn't. I have not had an adequate chance to respond, so
2 my idea of a survey is that some quantity of this
3 population, a truly representative quantity be asked three
4 questions. If they understand the project, one, if they
5 knew about these meetings and this DEIS, and if they've
6 come to terms with the project and how it will affect
7 them? I think that's only fair.

229-6

8 As a side note, also I am still waiting for
9 information one of SE2s lawyers told me he was going to
10 send me a month ago, and he has not. I am still
11 uninformed. Please, please extend our time to respond.
12 It is a must. We do not have the funds or the time to
13 supply expert information rapidly. We may not be able to
14 supply it at all, but we can point out the flaws and ask
15 you to do the right thing. I support the no action
16 alternative. Thank you very much.

229-7

17 MR. KAUFMAN: Mike Kaufman, 1620 Huntley
18 Road, Bellingham 98226.

Speaker 230

19 On the subject of power lines I spoke last
20 night on some issues. Tonight I would like to speak on
21 some powers line and some other things in the EIS.

22 First of all, I'd like to ask EFSEC to
23 include in the EIS their reason for jurisdiction in the
24 power lines. Has it been included in an EIS draft by
25 EFSEC in the past? What would be the background for your

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 decision to include the 115,000 volt lines as a connected
2 action?

3 And if one way as a suggestion to mitigate
4 the circumstances of the 115,000 volt lines as it relates
5 to EFSEC, if you find no clear reason and jurisdiction for
6 the power lines for you to evaluate the power lines or
7 background of this in other EISS, an easy way to deal with
8 it would be to eliminate it from the environmental draft
9 impact statement.

10 And hence, you would not have to deal with
11 it because in the end Whatcom County Council is
12 responsible for the power lines in the conditional use
13 permit for building the lines. EFSEC has no power over
14 the construction of the power lines. It is my contention
15 that the possibility be looked at.

16 At a January 4 meeting in this building it
17 was stated to me, I received a statement from the
18 consultant Black & Veatch of why they were in there.
19 Darrell Jones at a meeting that I had with him over lunch
20 told me that EFSEC told him to put the 115,000 volt lines
21 in the draft, and in the draft statement it says that the
22 Applicant asked that they be put in as a connected action.

23 Again, I think the Applicant is using EFSEC
24 to run interference, to use the taxpayer's money to put
25 this information in the EIS draft, so he doesn't have to

230-1

1 pay for it at a later date. If EFSEC decides that the
2 power lines is within their jurisdiction, I would like to
3 see the subject added as to the criteria for the 115,000
4 volt line route. What were the considerations for the
5 route that was chosen? Were any other alternatives used
6 in their evaluation of this particular route and what was
7 the research data used by Black & Veatch, who was the
8 consultant on that part of the project against that I
9 spoke with here at the meeting on January 4. Also to that
10 what is the amperage? What is the amperage of the 115,000
11 volt line? Has a line of this amperage been built
12 anywhere else and where was that line, and what were the
13 results of that?

230-2

230-3

14 Also if you decide to get involved in the
15 wielding and transmission of then power, it ends up
16 everybody's assuming that BPA is going to take it, and
17 when we dealt with BPA back in the early '90s through
18 Puget Sound Energy, BPA doesn't get along with most people
19 very well, and one of the problems that they had, BPA, was
20 that Puget Sound Energy was asking for a 750 watt line
21 coming through the county. It was suggested that BPA
22 couldn't handle that at their substations because it was
23 too small of power, and I think that this issue needs to
24 be addressed and also becomes a connected action if you're
25 going to run 115,000 volt lines through the county. All

230-4

1 of that can be mitigated just by saying no to that in your
2 environmental draft statement.

3 I would like see added to it a review of an
4 existing plant of this size and type anywhere in the state
5 or anywhere in the country.

230-5

6 On another issue, Page 3.8-13, property
7 value, the EIS draft statement says again as we heard last
8 night that it increases property value having a power line
9 road down your street. I would like to see the
10 justification for that statement in the EIS Draft, and if
11 there is no justification for that as explained by the
12 assessor in Whatcom County that there's up to a 30 percent
13 loss in his valuation of property what would be the
14 compounded tax loss to the county to Whatcom County for
15 the loss of that tax revenue and what would the future
16 loss of development of property along that line be?

230-6

17 Page 2-34 and Page 3.8-2 both speak to
18 industrial park infrastructure. That there are railroads.
19 There's a location to the Canadian border. There's
20 Highway 9 located by this industrial park. The siting of
21 SE2 does not utilize a railroad. It does not utilize the
22 Canadian Border. It does not utilize Highway 9. What
23 would be the loss in dollar values in taxes of future use
24 of this infrastructure? What money was paid for to get
25 the Sumas industrial plant in the first place, and then

230-7

1 how is that money being lost by using SE2 on this
2 particular site?

230-7

3 MR. FIKSDAL: Mr. Kaufman, are you almost
4 finished?

5 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes, I am getting there. What
6 will the loss be to agriculture in dollar value? On Page
7 2-34 it states there will be no benefit to the Applicant.
8 If there's a no action, what would be the benefit be to
9 the people, if there were no action?

230-8

10 And then habitat briefly. About 3.4-18 it
11 speaks of removing tress on the Department of Natural
12 Resource Land along the electric corridor. I find that is
13 unacceptable and would like to know what DNR feels about
14 that and the lost habitat of that particular value.

230-9

15 I would like to see the minutes of all
16 public meetings and the scoping meeting and a discussion
17 of public notification of all of these meetings. I would
18 like to see the architect of the DEIS of Jones & Stokes
19 investigated. Why were they chosen to write the EIS?
20 What, if any, past EIS that they have written and their
21 relationship to applicant, Darrell Jones.

230-10

22 And also I back a statement made by Connie
23 Hoag last night that a revised Draft Environmental Impact
24 Statement be issued.

230-11

25 MR. FIKSDAL: Your time is up.

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 MR. KAUFMAN: Yeah. One statement to the
2 people of Abbotsford who has stated to me at the meeting
3 here on January 4 by a Canadian engineer that the line, a
4 230 line into Canada was all wrapped up; that was a done
5 deal. Consider this, it's your gas, it crosses the
6 border, we burn it and make the revenue, and, you get the
7 garbage.

8 And who's got the initial 230,000 volt line
9 in this county by a simple initiative? I have a copy of
10 that, and we need to work together to stop the line on the
11 ends of the border. Also I'd like to see the Board
12 consider alternative sites in the state to develop it and
13 alternative sites in the county and Cherry Point and
14 consider the losses Dirk Petty said last night of the gas
15 energy being lost to generating electricity to the fact
16 that if it was burned to heat homes, that it's a much less
17 loss of energy, and what that cost would mean to the
18 environment and to the people. Thank you for your time.
19 I appreciate that.

20 MR. FIKSDAL: Please try to limit your talk
21 to about five minutes because we need to leave and if you
22 speak too long, other people won't have a chance

23 MR. FRANKISH: Okay. Thank you very much.
24 It's Brian Frankish, 34642 Second avenue in Huntingdon,
25 British Columbia. You noticed how people started speaking

230-12

Speaker 231

1 to you and as the night went on they were kind of turning.
2 I think it's only polite not to keep your back to the
3 audience.

4 But anyway no significant impact. I've
5 heard that said many times, and I guess if you hear it
6 often enough you might start believing it, but I think the
7 number of people that turn out here and probably some of
8 the feedback you're getting through the mail and faxes
9 there already is a significant impact. There's a lot of
10 people concerned.

11 I am going to speak on six issues, and they
12 he will be brief, three on utilities and three on quality
13 of life. On the issues of utility, well, let's face it.
14 This type of a project is a consultant's and engineer's
15 dream because they get to do all this slide ruling stuff
16 and whatnot and plan all these different things, but I
17 think one of the speakers did note that consultants and
18 engineers don't know cows.

19 The water issue if we go back in time, and I
20 noticed in this report that it says that the water supply
21 is no longer available from Canada. I believe that the
22 City of Abbotsford did know about this plant even though
23 that there were some politicians that were kind of
24 pointing their fingers saying I didn't know anything.
25 They did when water was asked for from the redundant wells

1 in the City of Abbotsford. Well, the issue of the plant
2 took back stage to really should we want to enter into a
3 contract such as this, and I think that's the way the vote
4 went, right, Patricia? That's why you didn't get the
5 water from the Canada, so you had to look to other means.

6 As for power lines that really didn't get
7 brought up in the whole thing, and it only came to a head
8 here recently, and I think it's not a good thing. There's
9 health concerns, there's aesthetics, and the impact on
10 property values. I just live two streets over here in
11 what could be described a heritage home. It was built by
12 the superintendent of the CPR 1910 when it came down and
13 hooked up to the rail line here, and I think if Old
14 Superintendant Douglas knew that his right of way was
15 going to be used to put up a power line to devalue his
16 property he would be rolling over in his grave.

231-1

17 Waste water. It says here that the waste
18 water from this plant is going to be discharged into the
19 City of Sumas waste water collection system, but it
20 doesn't go further to say that waste water collection
21 system is actually heading into Abbotsford and to the
22 James Treatment Plant at the Fraser River.

231-2

23 Now again, this might be an engineer's dream
24 that we are going to get all these millions of gallons of
25 warm water flushing our system. Who knows what's in it?

1 But it might have a benefit to the Abbotsford-Sumas
2 System. I kind of look at it as sort of like Sumas Energy
3 2 giving Abbotsford an enema.

231-2

4 The most important issue here and that's air
5 quality. And let's face it. It was stated at last
6 night's meeting by one gentleman that the equivalent
7 emissions from this plant would sort of equate to about
8 9,000 more vehicles driving up and down that Highway 1.
9 Well, I don't know whether that's correct. Let's say it's
10 only 5,000 vehicles, but they're not driving up and down
11 the highway. They're going to be circling around on 37
12 acres right here in Sumas. Can you imagine 5,000 vehicles
13 driving around a circle 24 hours a day?

231-3

14 And then there's the issue of the 2.5
15 million dollar diesel tank that's going to be used to fuel
16 this plant. Should the gas be needed elsewhere, or as
17 someone mentioned last night, should the price of gas drop
18 maybe we will just use diesel fuel, so that's maybe 5,000
19 diesel pickup trucks driving around in a circle on a
20 37-acre piece of property. Can you imagine that? I don't
21 like it.

231-4

22 And it's going to affect us right here, but
23 let's think about our neighbors in Chilliwack who have
24 already been alluded to. They're going to suffer the
25 consequences of this air quality. They need more air

231-5

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 pollution just like they need a first nation's blockade on
2 the Rosedale Bridge.

3 The sound of the plant is going to impact
4 us. It's not the decibels. They're the loudness of it.
5 It's the continual drone, and I think that was spoken to
6 last night, and it is a concern. And I did mention last
7 night that I am embarrassed that the City of Abbotsford
8 put this resaw plant over here just on the other side of
9 the road, and that the residents, my neighbors in Sumas
10 have had to listen to it just like I do every night when I
11 go to bed and every morning when I wake up.

231-6

12 The influence that it might have on our
13 domestic electronics, our T.V., radio, and our cell phone
14 reception I think is something to be considered, and I
15 don't see anything in the mitigations in here that are
16 addressing that fact. After last night's Council meeting
17 in the District of Abbotsford they passed a resolution,
18 thank you very much, Councilors, to oppose the
19 transmission lines through the district of Abbotsford.
20 Great.

231-7

21 But then I heard on the radio today when I'm
22 driving home from work that already Sumas 2 is talking
23 compromise with the engineers of our city, talking about
24 undergrounding the lines, so they were quick to move on
25 that, and that could be just what goes on here. Engineers

1 talking to engineers not concerning themselves with all of
2 us people.

3 The bottom line here is that I propose no
4 action on this. We don't need the plant. We don't need
5 the lines. We don't need anything that goes with it. Let
6 the engineers and the staff of our municipalities get back
7 to looking after our roads and our sewer and water system
8 and stop wasting money. Thank you very much.

231-8

9 MR. PETTY: Good evening, Ladies and
10 Gentlemen. Oh, Dirk Petty, 1376 Van Wyck Road. Just a
11 quick word about the transmission lines, and about stray
12 voltage which is not mentioned in the DEIS or nuisance
13 shocking which is not mentioned in the DEIS and just a
14 quick word about property devaluation.

Speaker 232

232-1

232-2

15 There should be a model showing all the
16 routes of the transmission lines, how it affects the
17 properties, how those are devalued, and how that will
18 affect the tax base in the future. It needs to be
19 included in the DEIS because it's how our community works.
20 We tax people and that's how it all works, and if you're
21 taking tax revenue away from us, then we need to know
22 about that.

232-3

23 So if those issues were addressed in the
24 DEIS it would be an improvement over a terribly flawed
25 document that personally I wouldn't be that proud to come

1 in front of a crowd and show.

2 Now just a few words to the group. The
3 power is not going to Canada. The power is going to
4 California and Arizona. It's used for lighting and air
5 conditioning. We already get most of our power from Hydro
6 Electric that runs the State of Washington, and it gets
7 huge, huge profits from moving power through Washington
8 through Oregon through California, and that's what runs
9 the malls, and the air conditioners in Arizona and
10 California.

11 The gas comes from Canada. If you can shut
12 the gas off, Canadians, then we don't have the plant. So
13 get rid of the permitting process that allows the gas to
14 come across; you stop the plant. Very simple. Another
15 thing. There's a grass roots organization called GRASP
16 that's organized, and it doesn't run on natural gas. It
17 runs on dollars, so open your wallets, deposit as much
18 money as you can afford on the little basket, and we can
19 beat this thing. Thank you.

20 MR. KUNIMOTO: Thanks very much. My name is
21 Brian Kunimoto. I live at 4741 Olin Road in Mount Lieman,
22 British Columbia. I'll be quite brief. Abbotsford air
23 quality is considered to be the third worst in Canada.
24 The fine particulate emissions will only add to this
25 health risk.

Speaker 233

233-1

1 I have a personal stake in this as my
2 six-year-old daughter suffers from asthma. I could not
3 live with myself if I didn't do everything I could to
4 oppose this project. I think I know why this plant is
5 proposed to be located only one quarter of a mile from the
6 Canadian border. Air pollution knows no political
7 boundaries.

233-1

8 This plant will produce such other wonderful
9 emissions as sulfuric acid mist, nitrous oxide, carbon
10 monoxide, and o-zone. Our environment can't take any
11 more, but this company will tell you that it is within
12 acceptable risks. Our environment is not for us to
13 exploit, exploit wantonly. We citizens of Canada and
14 U.S.A. must take care of what we have. The only ones who
15 will benefit from this proposal are the investors on Wall
16 Street. The human cost of this project will be borne by
17 you and me.

233-2

18 Think of this if you have to take your child
19 to the emergency room of the hospital suffering an asthma
20 attack as you worry about her life. If this meeting is an
21 accurate representation of public opinion, it would seem
22 that Canadians and Americans are of a single mind.

23 Please listen and do the right thing. I
24 would think that you would be praised for your political
25 courage. Thanks.

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 MS. SHIELD: My name is Elerine Shields. I
2 live on Halverstick road between Hammer Road and Southwell
3 Road. I own all the property between those roads along
4 Halverstick. My house is exactly five miles from the
5 entrance to the Sumas Energy 1 plant, and I can hear the
6 noise from that facility.

7 The proposed plan would have much higher
8 noise levels. These are not adequately addressed in the
9 DEIS. I am deeply concerned about the poisons which would
10 be emitted into the air. Table 6.1.2 of the EFSEC
11 Application 99-1 has the pollutants listed by their
12 chemical terms. I worked for nearly four years in the
13 chemistry lab of the Flour and Feed that now belong to
14 General Mills, Inc., but I am not a chemist.

234-1

234-2

15 Mary Barret, Counsel for the Environment for
16 the Attorney General of Washington wrote about the January
17 18, 2000 EFSEC hearing. She wrote that the format of the
18 January 4, 2000 open house was ineffective because
19 attendees need basic information before they can ask the
20 right questions. The fact sheets were light on specifics
21 she said and did not give information the average person
22 would understand.

23 The consultants gave technical answers which
24 could be misunderstood by the average person. I heard
25 very little about the proposed plan until the hearing on

1 September 16, 1999 at the Sumas City Hall. The
2 application was made in January 1999. Why was there
3 little or no publicity about it until nine months later?
4 At that meeting after hearing testimony I was convinced
5 that this would be very unwise. I did not want any such
6 plant ever to be built.

234-3

7 The company mailed information during the
8 week between Christmas and New Years Day about the open
9 house in Sumas on January 4, 2000. I think these were
10 mailed deliberately then so that few residents saw it
11 during the holidays. Mary C. Barrett wrote the letter
12 sent to residents of Sumas and the property owners along
13 the alternative transmission routes were not designed to
14 make the average person pay attention or come to the open
15 house, and then they said only 60 persons attended the
16 open house.

234-4

17 I wish they had had the open house in
18 October or November. They probably did not want it then
19 so near the September meeting because folks could remember
20 the negative remarks made at that meeting. I do not like
21 these business tactics.

22 I have been a business woman for the past 37
23 years, ever since we moved here. My husband and I always
24 tried to communicate well and treat our employees fairly.
25 I was a public school teacher in Clallam, King, and

1 Whatcom Counties. I was a secretary for the power analyst
2 for the City of Seattle, and I was secretary to the
3 Director of Planning in the Pierce County Courthouse.
4 There was all of my education which I worked hard to
5 attain and my years of working experience. I find the
6 technical subject matter regarding the application of
7 National Energy Systems hard to understand. I do not
8 understand how hard Ordinance 90-124 Title 120, public
9 utilities can be circumvented by sending 330 megawatt
10 transmission lines on 115 kV wires.

11 As I understood this law no high poles are
12 to be built in Whatcom County except on land quote "where
13 such permits have already been granted or in those
14 districts classified as industrial." This law was a
15 result of NOPE involvement ten years ago. It gained
16 nationwide attention and even folks in Australia heard
17 about it.

18 In the information mailed to me a sentence
19 said that poles would be slightly higher. This was
20 mentioned earlier tonight. At the open house I heard
21 others ask if slightly higher meant twice as high. 75
22 foot and 80 foot poles are not slightly higher than the
23 present 35 foot poles. After I read that sentence
24 National Energy Systems lost all credibility as far as I
25 am concerned. I wrote to some people that I didn't

234-5

1 believe anything they said after that.

2 I think it is terrible that Canadians were
3 not notified earlier. Toxic emissions are airborne. At
4 the January 29, 2000 meeting one person said he and his
5 family had moved here for the quality of life. He spoke
6 of the fourth highest industry of the county, the tourist
7 industry. This would be harmed by toxic emissions and
8 noise. And that person's son has asthma which is enhanced
9 which you've heard before tonight.

234-6

10 I am concerned about using gravel to fill in
11 wetlands. I request an extension on the comment period
12 beyond April 17, 2000 because this is a very busy time
13 here for farmers and for all of us who live in the
14 country. I favor and urge the no action alternative.

234-7

15 MS. HOAG: Can I hold the mike?

234-8

16 MR. FIKSDAL: Sure.

234-9

17 MS. HOAG: I have to shuffle papers. Thank
18 you for coming tonight to hear our comments. I am
19 disappointed that there is not more EFSEC Council Members
20 here because I think it's much more effective to hear
21 people's comments in person than to read them on a
22 transcript, and often I fear they're not read at all, and
23 so I wish there were more Council members here.

Speaker 235

24 I do have a question. First of all, I
25 wondered what happens to the comments that are made on the

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 Draft EIS?

2 MR. FIKSDAL: They're reviewed by our
3 consultant, and they are answered in the final EIS, and
4 they will be included in the final EIS.

5 MS. HOAG: So if someone says, for instance,
6 the Chilliwack air should have been in the Draft EIS, then
7 will the Chilliwack air be in the Draft EIS or can someone
8 say, well, we don't think so?

9 MR. FIKSDAL: It will be up to our
10 consultant to advise us on what should be in the final
11 EIS.

12 MS. HOAG: That wasn't a loaded question. I
13 just wanted to know how the process works.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tell your consultant to
15 live by the plant.

16 MS. HOAG: First of all, I wanted to speak
17 to the jobs and to let the people of Sumas know and the
18 EFSEC board here on Page 3.3-6 it says that there will be
19 a 12 to 18 month construction period, and on Page 2-11 it
20 says that the peak period where they will employ up to 400
21 people will last four months. Now politicians and the
22 company have repeatedly stated 400 jobs for three years.

23 Georgia Gardner just got a veto override
24 today in the Senate with that very mantra. Bob Partlow
25 called me with the Bellingham Herald and said she's still

235-1

1 saying that even though it's not the truth, and she knows
2 it. They have been able to get labor support for the
3 plant with the same lies. There should be some penalty
4 for lying but apparently there is not.

5 On Page 3.1-4 it says the determination of
6 what constitutes best available control technology at the
7 time of the final permit review will define the emission
8 limits for the S2GF project, and then it goes on to say
9 recent fact determinations have indicated that either 9
10 ppm without SCR or 4.5 ppm with SCR is considered BACT.
11 Now are we to understand from that then that this plant
12 can go in with twice as much NOx as we're currently being
13 told it will emit? In fact, at least twice as much
14 because what I was told is that their table which says
15 they will emit 236 tons per year of NOx is based on 3 ppm,
16 and this appears to say that they will be allowed to have
17 4 ppm with the selective catalytic reduction, and if they
18 choose not to use SCR that they will be allowed up to 9
19 ppm, and that that determination will not be made until
20 final permit review. So how is the public suppose to know
21 then what sort of air pollution we can anticipate?

22 MR. FIKSDAL: The PSD as mentioned is in
23 consideration processes. It's a federally delegated
24 process that EFSEC has. We will be issuing the notice and
25 a draft permit for a public comment period, and in that

1 draft permit will be the levels that the Council suggests
2 will be for NOx and other pollutants. At that time
3 anybody can comment on that draft permit to the Council.

4 MS. HOAG: So you're saying the levels could
5 change. It could be very different than what we're seeing
6 here on the application and in our Draft EIS here, and it
7 could be much higher on our NOx levels.

8 MR. FIKSDAL: It could be different.

9 MS. HOAG: Okay. First of all, in the
10 prevention of significant deterioration I like the sound
11 of that, and the first time I heard it that gave me a lot
12 of comfort, and I watched a place go from below clean air
13 ceilings up to severe nonattainment using best available
14 control technology and PSD, so I don't put much faith in
15 that.

16 I wanted to let you know there was a Harvard
17 Study that I just got today, and I wanted to bring it
18 tonight and couldn't find it on the way to the meeting, so
19 I will be submitting that for the record. They studied
20 the affects of air pollution on the heart, and they found
21 that particulate matter and especially very fine particles
22 of sulfur dioxide have a very immediate detrimental effect
23 on the ability of the heart to vary its rate to adjust to
24 the different exertions that are put on it, and this is a
25 breakthrough study that's been done. It should be

235-2

1 included in the EIS. It is very important information.

2 As I mentioned last night, asthma rates are
3 rising in the United States, and air pollution is being
4 looked at very closely because hospitalization rates for
5 asthma and increases in air pollution rates are showing a
6 direct link.

7 Dan, I am glad you could come. I am the
8 last speaker, Dan, so you're just getting the end here.
9 The EPA is revising its standards on criteria pollutants
10 such as carbon monoxide and particulate matter because
11 they are not adequately protecting health with the current
12 standards. This plant is trying to get in under the old
13 standards which they know will hurt people. That's
14 unethical. We can choose to avoid certain risks by
15 choosing not to eat things or use things that are
16 hazardous, but we cannot choose not to breathe.

17 The Northwest Power Planning Council study
18 that has been cited frequently by this company has been
19 misrepresented. First of all, it did not take into
20 account the many plants in this region that have been
21 permitted but not built because there is no demand for the
22 power.

23 The study was funded by BPA. BPA has a
24 vested interest in having an oversupply of power because
25 they make more money from wheeling and exporting power

235-3

ELYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 than they do from direct service. The reason that this
2 plant wants to go in now is simply to get around the new
3 standards which have been proposed by EPA which are coming
4 down the pipeline. There is no energy shortage.

5 MR. FIKSDAL: If you could wrap up, please,
6 Ms. Hoag.

7 MS. HOAG: Yes, I just, you know, I was in
8 Council all day today, so once again my notes here are as
9 quick as I can get to them, and they're very short and
10 brief.

11 The ENM modeling Pages 3.3-7 through 3.3-11
12 do not address properties at a greater distance which
13 should be affected by smokestack noise. The state and
14 local noise ordinances set a maximum of 50 LEQ dba in
15 residential areas at night. EPA guidelines set an average
16 maximum of 55 dba for outdoor areas where quiet is a basis
17 for use. Appendix B shows that all existing levels
18 violate city ordinances and state law in the residences
19 that they measured, and these levels do not include IKO.
20 On the residences that they show I-would like to know from
21 the consultants are these line of sight residences or is
22 there anything blocking them. Is it possible that there
23 are residences that are a farther distance that actually
24 are receiving even more dba's?

25 Table 3.3-7 on Page 3.3-11 does not take

235-4

235-5

1 into account the IKO plant and is invalid. All sound
2 tables which do not include IKO are invalid. Even without
3 IKO this table shows that at all residences shown the
4 levels would violate state law, local ordinances, and EPA
5 guidelines; yet, on the same page the DEIS states because
6 noise standards are not predicted to be exceeded no
7 additional mitigation is suggested. How can they possibly
8 get to that determination when they just produced all the
9 data that shows that it's already being violated before
10 this plant even comes on line?

11 You have an answer to that?

12 MR. FIKSDAL: No, I don't have an answer to
13 that.

14 MS. HOAG: I'm almost done.

15 MR. FIKSDAL: We have to leave.

16 MS. HOAG: Okay. I am almost done, and this
17 is very important to our community here. It's important
18 for the people of Sumas to understand that every ten
19 decibels, every increase of ten decibels is a doubling of
20 the sound at 40 decibels. It shows that it interferes
21 with sleep. 50 decibels is twice the level that
22 interferes with sleep, and yet some of the levels that are
23 predicted are up to 56 and 57 decibels at night.

24 That was No. 9. I only have two more. The
25 gas line. The DEIS states that there will be regular

1 inspections. I'd like to know how regular. We invited
2 all of the companies that had lines in Whatcom County into
3 the Whatcom County Council and reviewed their safety
4 procedure, and we found that some of them inspected their
5 lines maybe once every five years. Some companies were
6 more thorough and did it each year. I think it should be
7 very specific. Regular does not tell the public what to
8 expect.

235-6

9 In terms of PERPA, it's important to
10 understand that the tax benefits that are supposedly going
11 to come from the plant will only be a benefit to us if
12 this is not allowed to come in under the statement PERPA
13 contract that the existing plant is under. Because their
14 plant is costing us money and calling it an expansion is
15 something like saying I'm going to turn my house into an
16 apartment building and call it an expansion. It's not.

235-7

17 In terms of the track record, this company
18 has been criticizing myself and other people who
19 originally fought the first plant, but that same company
20 had proposed to put that plant in a residential area with
21 no sound controls and no environmental controls at all
22 using a scrap jet engine. It was not until citizens
23 objected that it ended up being located in an industrial
24 area, and we warned about the PERPA and we were ignored.

25 My last comment is that the Washington

1 Toxics Coalition sent the Whatcom County Council a letter
2 which I would like to read an excerpt from.

3 MR. FIKSDAL: Would you mind just submitting
4 that, please.

5 MS. HOAG: No, I think it's important that
6 the public hear it.

7 MR. FIKSDAL: Well, the Council has to
8 leave.

9 MS. HOAG: I understand, Allen. I would
10 just appreciate you to just it's a very short letter, and
11 I think it's very important for both the Council and the
12 public.

13 MR. FIKSDAL: Well, we are not hearing from
14 a couple people because we have to leave and you're taking
15 longer than most people.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Let's hear her. Read it.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We want to hear it.

18 MS. HOAG: Mr. Fiksdal, I'm a representative
19 of the local county council, and I do think that it would
20 be appropriate for EFSEC to hear my comments.

21 We are opposed to the proposal to build
22 Sumas 2, a 660 megawatt power plant at Sumas. The Toxics
23 Coalition is extremely concerned about releases of
24 persistent bio accumulative toxic chemicals into our
25 environment. These are chemicals that build up in the

FLYGARE & ASSOCIATES 1-800-574-0414

1 food chain and in our bodies and can be toxic in minute
2 amounts.

3 PBTs are particularly dangerous because they
4 do not only affect the wildlife and people that are
5 immediately exposed to them they persist in the
6 environment, build up in our bodies, and can pass to fetus
7 or an infant through breast milk and the umbilical cord.

8 Thus, when we put PBTs into our water and
9 air or onto the land we are literally burdening our
10 grandchildren with our pollution, and its effects.

11 In fact, these chemicals are of such great
12 concern that the State of Washington has initiated a
13 strategy to eliminate PBTs, and our state is not alone.
14 International bodies are calling for phase outs. The
15 International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes and the
16 Washington State British Columbia Environmental
17 Cooperation Council have both called for the phase out of
18 PBTs.

19 According to the Sumas 2 application the
20 facility will be emitting a wide range of toxic chemicals,
21 including mercury which is a PBT. Mercury is a known
22 neurotoxin can affect the body's central nervous system.
23 It can also harm kidneys and lungs. Mercury bio
24 accumulates in fish. Just one gram of mercury is enough
25 to put fish consumption advisories on a 20 acre lake.

1 Clearly mercury releases from this plant are a serious
2 concern for public health and the environment in Whatcom
3 County.

4 We are also concerned about the potential
5 health effects from the other air pollutants from this
6 facility. In addition to the large volumes of the
7 nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide,
8 toxic pollutants such as toluene, benzene, and
9 formaldehyde will be emitted from the plant.

10 Toluene increases the risk of spontaneous
11 abortion in exposed women. It also causes birth defects,
12 particularly of the head and face, urinary tract, and
13 limbs. The State of California lists toluene as a known
14 developmental toxicant.

15 Benzene has long been recognized as a known
16 cause of cancer in humans. There is also evidence that
17 benzene interferes with reproductive and developmental
18 processes.

19 Formaldehyde is a known irritant and a
20 suspected carcinogen. We urge Council members to reject
21 this proposal in favor of protecting the health and
22 environment of our state, and thank you for allowing me to
23 read that. I think it's important for your consideration.

24 MR. FIKSDAL: We want to thank you all for
25 coming. We heard many important things. There are a

235-8

1 couple that we didn't have an opportunity to hear. We
2 have to leave.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What about 15 minutes?

4 MR. FIKSDAL: We have to catch an airplane.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where?

6 MR. FIKSDAL: Bellingham Airport.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: This is our home.

8 MR. FIKSDAL: Please submit anymore comments
9 in writing.

10 * * * * *

11 (Whereupon, the public hearing was concluded
12 at 9:17 a.m.)
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25